

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

New claims 8-10 have been added. Support for claim 8 is found at page 2, lines 7-10; page 3, lines 12-15, and page 9, lines 8-9. Support for claim 9 is found at page 9, lines 1-5. Support for claim 10 is found at page 9, lines 9-11. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 5-7 under Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,462,156). In support of this rejection, the Office Action states that "Kobayashi et al. show a conveyor body 5 which is coupled to a three-phase synchronous motor 10," citing column 3, lines 13-19. Applicant agrees that Kobayashi et al. show a three-phase AC motor, but Applicant respectfully disagrees that Kobayashi et al. show a three-phase *synchronous* motor as claimed.

In the conveyor device 1 of Kobayashi et al., each drive roller 5 incorporates a reduction gear 11 that decelerates the rotating force to a predetermined number of rotations. See, Kobayashi et al., column 3, lines 6-11. That is, the rotation speed of the motor 10 is too high to drive the roller 5 directly; hence, the reduction gear 11 is necessary for the conveyor device 1. A synchronous motor is rotated at relatively low speed and is generally used without a reduction gear. In contrast, an induction motor is driven at high speeds which would require a reduction gear for use in a conveyor device. See, Specification, page 1, lines 10-14. Therefore, Applicant submits that the motor 10 of Kobayashi et al. is not a synchronous motor, but is an induction motor.

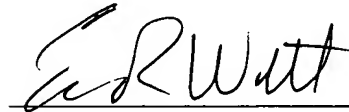
Because the Kobayashi et al. patent does not disclose a conveyor body operationally coupled to a three-phase synchronous motor as claimed, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 5-7 are not anticipated by Kobayashi et al. Withdrawal of the rejection under Section 102(b) is respectfully requested.

In addition, Kobayashi et al. fails to disclose the features of new claims 8-10. Therefore, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable over the cited Kobayashi et al. patent.

If there are any issues remaining which prevent the allowance of pending claims 1-9, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

Appl. No. 10/647,802
Amdt. dated June 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. R. Witt", written over a horizontal line.

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Date: June 24, 2004

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